**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

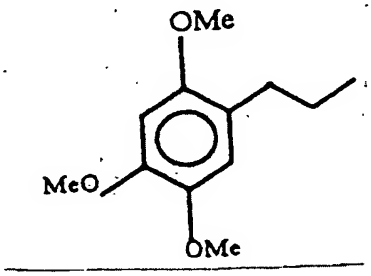
1 - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A process for ~~preparing~~the preparation of neolignan 3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2", 4", 5"-trimethoxy) phenyl-1-(2', 4', 5'-trimethoxy ) phenyl-1-propene ~~3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(~~2,4,5-~~trimethoxy) phenyl-1-(~~2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)~~ phenyl-1-propene~~ of formula II ~~by DDQ dimerisation of~~ from toxic β-asarone or ~~commercial available~~ β-asarone rich *Acorus calamus* oil containing α~~,β~~, and γ-~~dihydroasrones,~~ asarone, the said process comprising the following steps ~~of~~:

a) ~~(a) stirring dihydroasrone of formula (I) with alcohol, palladium on activated charcoal~~hydrogenating β-asarone or β-asarone rich calamus oil containing α and γ-asarone in presence of methanol or ethanol, 10% Pd/c catalyst, with or without ammonium formate under pressure between 0 - 40 psi at room temperature ~~under nitrogen atmosphere;~~,

~~(b) filtering and evaporating the solvent under reduced pressure to obtain 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenylpropane,~~

b) purifying the product of step (a) over silica gel column to obtain 2,4,5-trimrthoxypenylpropane of formula (I),




(I)

c) ~~(c) mixing 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenylpropane obtained in~~stirring the compound of formula (I) of step (~~c~~b) with DDQ~~, for about 10-15 minutes on ice~~ in presence of organic solvent selected from group of acetic acid or propionic acid at room temperature for overnight,

d) ~~(d)~~ filtering the ~~precipitated~~precipitate solid of $DDQH_3$~~,(c)~~ $_2$ and washing the ~~filtered residue~~filtrate twice with ~~organic~~acetic acid,

e) ~~(f) evaporating the organic acid~~filtrate of step (~~e~~d), to obtain a concentrated ~~mixture,~~

f) ~~(g) pouring and mixing the concentrated mixture of step (f) with water,(h) extracting the mixture of step (g) with an aliphatic hydrogenated hydrocarbon,~~solution and extracting with dichloromethane,

g) ~~(i)~~ washing the organic layer ~~obtained in~~of step (~~h~~c) with brine ~~and,~~ 10% ~~sodium~~% bicarbonate solution, followed by ~~second washing~~ again ~~with~~ brine,

h) ~~(j)~~ drying ~~the~~ organic layer obtained in step (~~i) with~~f) over anhydrous sodium ~~sulfate to obtain a residue,~~sulphate,

i) ~~(k) purifying~~chromatographing the residue ~~obtained in~~of step (~~j~~g) over silica gel using hexane-~~ethylacetate~~ehtyl acetate mixture to obtain three sets of fractions, and

j) ~~(l)~~ crystallizing ~~the~~ fractions of step (~~k) with~~h) using mixture of hexane and methanol, and

k) ~~(m)identifying the~~ obtaining crystallized fractions of ~~step (l) as~~ α-asarone of formula ~~IIa~~I, 1- (2,4,5-trimethoxy) phenyl-1-propanone of formula ~~IIb~~IIb and ~~3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2,4,-trimethoxy) phenyl-1-(2,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-propene of formula II~~ neolignan 3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2", 4", 5"-trimethoxy) phenyl- –1-(2', 4', 5'-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-propene of formula II.

37 - 44. (Canceled)

45. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36 wherein the effective molar ratio of 2,4,5-trimethoxyp propane and DDQ in step (c) is in the range of 1:1 to 1:2.1

46. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the organic solvent in step (c) is acetic acid.

47. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36 wherein the neolignan obtained is termed as NEOLASA-I.

48. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said neolignan (II) has one asymmetric center.

49. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said neolignan (II) obtained provides the opportunity for evaluation of its biological activity.

50. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said neolignan (II) has aliphatic side chain with one double bond.